Contract for dredging work in Calcutta Port Trust

2639. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 2470, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st December, 1994 and state:

(a) the status of the contract, as on date, between the Dredging Corporation of India Limited (DCIL) and the Dutch Contractor, alongwith the financial implications due to delay in termination of the contract;

(b) the earnings made so far CSD 'Aquarius' in various dredging works, *vis-a-vis* amount paid DCIL for her acquisition;

(c) whether the basket arrangements were intended to revive the dredging project at Jiggerkhali flat and whether the Non-performance of the Dutch Contractor has totally defeated the purpose, besides causing substantial loss to Calcutta Port Trust and DCIL; if so, how Government propose to recover the loss; and

(d) whether Government are still keen on entrusting the dredging work with the defaulting Dutch Contract; if so, under what terms, if not, the alternative action play by Government to improve the navigability of Calcutta/Haldia Ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The termination of Cooperation Agreement between DCI and the Dutch Contractor has already been taken up with Dutch-Govt. So far there has been no response from the Dutch Govt. However, DCI is executing works deploying CSD 'Aquarius' and with its own expertise.

(b) DCI has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 38.38 crores, including Rs. 11.30 crores towards customs duty for procurement of CSD 'Aquarius'. So far, Dredging Corporation of India Ltd. (DCIL) have earned Rs. 27.09 crores through deployment of CSD 'Aquarius'.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Calcutta Port already raised a claim of Rs. 76.59 crores against the Contractor for their failure to execute the contract.

(d) No, Sir. The dredging work in the Ballary Bar areas is being carried out by the Calcutta Port Trust through the Dredging Corporation of India Ltd.

Expansion work on National Highway No. 13

2640. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more than 200 Km of National Highway No. 13 between Chitradurga and Bijapur is single lane and very narrow;

(b) if so, the reasons for the slow progress of expansion work on NH 13 which has taken more than four years; and

(c) when the expansion of the Road to double lane would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to limited availability of resources, the work of widening single lane of NH 13 between Chitradurga and Bijapur, to two lanes is being taken up in phases. Out of a total length 324 kms, widening work in 94 kms has already been taken up.

(c) It is too early to indicate the likely timeframe as it depends on availability of funds.